

BOOK NOTICE

Elementary Lessons on Insects, by James G. Needham. VIII + 206 pages; 72 illus. (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, Ill.)

This is a book that will enable one to give an elementary course on insects, almost without a book, or at least without a book that is stuffed with dreary entomological statements, and the fact that Professor Needham is the author is a sufficient guarantee that it is good. Professor Needham believes that "the bane of our schools is bookishness," and so he has prepared a non-technical, practical course in entomology, which aims to have the pupil secure his knowledge through direct observation and experience with living specimens. In this way pupils will have the opportunity to do their own thinking and will know without being told whether or not a grasshopper can be drowned by holding its head under water.

Part I deals with the outside and the inside of an insect and with insect growth; part II, with the principal groups of insects; part III, with injurious insects and their control, and part IV, with collecting, keeping and rearing insects. And there are eighteen lessons, each outlining a work program which should delight pupils, because it gives them something interesting to do, and a laboratory program, with living insects, which gives them something fascinating to watch.

With insects as the chief actors and Professor Needham's book as a guide, even the most depressing pedagogue should be able to give a course on elementary entomology that would excite the envy and admiration of his colleagues.—H. B. W.

ERRATA

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Pages 209 and 210. For *ephippiata* read *ephippi*.

Page 226. For *reticornis* Fowl., read *reticulatus* Fowl.

Page 228. Lines 15 and 16 from bottom, for "dorsal node" read "front horn."